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AMENDMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19

CLAIMS

1. (deleted)

2. A purification apparatus for a liquid to be treated characterized in that it has first and second filter layers for filtering the liquid to be treated,

and an adsorbent placed between said first and second filter layers and containing at least basic magnesium sulfate and magnesium hydroxide,

and in that it is designed such that, by passing a liquid to be treated containing metal ions through said adsorbent, the metal ions in the liquid to be treated ^{ARE} ~~is~~ bound to a hydroxyl group in an adsorbent resulting in flocculation, flocculated particles are aggregated so that a mass is formed, and then trapped by said second filter layer.

3. A purification apparatus for a liquid to be treated characterized in that it has first and second filter layers for filtering the liquid to be treated,

an adsorbent placed between said first and second filter layers and containing at least basic magnesium sulfate and magnesium hydroxide,

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and electrode equipments for electrically charging a direct current through said liquid to be treated and generating OH ions in the liquid,

and in that it is designed such that the OH ions generated by said electrode equipments as well as the hydroxyl group in said adsorbent are bound to the metal ions in the liquid to be treated resulting in flocculation, particles flocculated in this manner are aggregated, and then trapped by said second filter layer.

4. A purification apparatus for a liquid to be treated characterized in that it has first and second filter layers for filtering the liquid to be treated,

an adsorbent placed between said first and second filter layers and containing a powdery cellulose,

and electrode equipments for electrically charging a direct current through said liquid to be treated and generating OH ions in the liquid to be treated,

and in that it is designed such that the OH ions generated by said electrode equipments is bound to the metal ions in the liquid to be treated resulting in flocculation, particles flocculated in this manner are trapped by said adsorbent and said second filter layer.

5. (amended) The apparatus according to ^{any one} ~~any one~~ of claims 2 to 4, wherein said metal ions are heavy metal

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ions.

6. (deleted)

7. A process for purifying a liquid to be treated characterized in that it comprises:

step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a first filter layer,

step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said first filter layer is passed through a layer of an adsorbent placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently thereto, and comprising at least basic magnesium sulfate and magnesium hydroxide,

step in which said metal ions is bound by further passing the liquid to be treated passed through the layer of adsorbent through a layer of the second filter layer placed downstream of said layer of adsorbent and subsequently thereto causing flocculation, and further aggregating the flocculated particles so that a mass is formed, and

step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said layer of adsorbent is trapped by a second filter layer placed downstream of said layer of adsorbent and subsequently thereto.

8. A process for purifying a liquid to be treated

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characterized in that it comprises:

step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a first filter layer,

step in which a direct current is electrically charged through said liquid to be treated so that OH ions is generated in the liquid to be treated,

step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said first filter layer is passed through a layer of an adsorbent placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently thereto, and containing at least basic magnesium sulfate and magnesium hydroxide,

step in which the OH ions generated by said electric current as well as a hydroxyl group in said adsorbent are bound to the metal ions in the liquid to be treated resulting in flocculation, and further flocculated particles are aggregated, and

step in which an aggregate formed in said aggregation is trapped by a second filter layer placed downstream of said layer of adsorbent and subsequently thereto.

9. A process for purifying a liquid to be treated characterized in that it comprises:

step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a first filter layer,

step in which a direct current is electrically

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charged through said liquid to be treated so that OH ions is generated in the liquid to be treated,

step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said first filter layer is passed through a layer of an adsorbent placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently thereto, and containing powdery cellulose,

step in which the OH ions generated by said electric current is bound to the metal ions in the liquid resulting in flocculation , and

step in which particles flocculated in this manner are trapped by said layer of adsorbent and a second filter layer placed downstream of said layer of adsorbent and subsequently thereto.

10. (amended) The process according to anyone of claims 7 to 9, wherein said metal ions is a heavy metal ions.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION UNDER ARTICLE 19, PARAGRAPH (1), PCT

[1] Because a paragraph [Constitution] on page 1 of JP-A-6-226017, cited in the International Search Report, discloses "a granular or powdery adsorbent 3 of magnesium is placed between a first cylindrical body 1 and a second cylindrical body 2", the inventive step of claims 1 and 6 is greatly affected. Therefore, claims 1 and 6 are deleted.

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